

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06621 132220Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3669

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6621

FOR TODMAN AND BUNKER FROM JORDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PN, SHUM

SUBJECT: TALK WITH TORRIJOS

1. I JUST HAD A FRIENDLY CHAT WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS WHO CONTINUES IN HIGH SPIRITS IN THE WAKE OF HIS WASHINGTON TRIP. HE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING: A) THE COUNCIL OF STATE HAS TODAY APPROVED THE REGULATIONS FOR THE PLEBISCITE ON THE TREATY (WILL SEND DETAILS SEPARTATELY); B) THE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED INVITING THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO PANAMA; C) UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WILL BE INVITED TO OBSERVE THE NATIONAL VOTING; D) TORRIJOS PLANS TO ALSO INVITE THE RECTORS OF ALL CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AS WELL AS SELECTED U.S. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS.

2. TORRIJOS IS PLANNING A VISIT TO ISRAEL BETWEEN NOW AND THE PLEBISCITE IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING INVITATION. HE ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT OF THE IDEA OF HIS VISITING A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS FOR SHORT VISITS (ABOUT AN HOUR) WITH PRIME MINISTERS OR PRESIDENTS TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE TREATY ARRANGEMENTS. I TOLD HIM I WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER THIS FURTHER BUT THAT MY OFF-THE-CUFF REACTION WAS THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. HOWEVER, I ADVISED
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AGAINST MAKING IT TOO ELABORATE OR TRYING TO COVER TOO MANY COUNTRIES. I SUGGESTED HE MIGHT SERVE THE SAME PRUPOSE BY PERSONAL MESSAGES IN MANY CASES. BUT HE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ON THE PRIMARY CANAL USERS--I.E. BRITAIN, GERMANY, NORWAY, FRANCE, ITALY. HE THOUGHT THAT WAS THE BEST WAY. HE SAID HE WANTED TO URGE THE EUROPEANS TO SEND MESSAGES TO U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN UNDER-

LINING THEIR HOPES FOR A FAIR SETTLEMENT AND THEIR CONFIDENCE IN U.S. AND PANAMANIAN OPERATION OF THE WATERWAY. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS EUROPEAN EFFORT BY THE GENERAL.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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